

FISCAL UPDATE News Article

Fiscal Services Division
August 4, 2016



IOWA PUBLIC INFORMATION BOARD MEETING

Meeting. The Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) met on July 21, 2016, in Des Moines. The Board took the following action:

- **Election of Board Chair.** The Board unanimously re-elected Board member Suzan Stewart of Sioux City as IPIB Chairperson. Board member Anthony Gaughan of West Des Moines was unanimously elected as Vice Chairperson. Both positions are held for a one-year term.
- Accepted Cases. The Board accepted five complaint cases for further review. These cases
 included alleged claims of violating the Open Records law against the city of Pleasant Hill, the
 counties of Dubuque and Hancock, and Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino. The Board also
 accepted a complaint against the city of Sutherland for violating the Open Meetings law.
- Advisory Opinions. Additionally, the Board issued two advisory opinions. The first of these
 discusses unsealed bids in possession of a government body as public records, and the second
 discusses juvenile records as public records.
- **Dismissed Cases.** The IPIB dismissed six complaint allegations, finding that these cases were either legally insufficient or did not fall under the Board's authority pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 21 (Open Meetings) and 22 (Open Records).
- Probable Cause Report: Crawford County Memorial Hospital (CCMH). At the June 2016 Board meeting, the IPIB held a special hearing regarding an alleged public records violation against Crawford County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) in Denison, Iowa. According to two formal complaints, CCMH violated Iowa Code chapter 22 when it refused to release a requested list of names of current hospital volunteer van drivers. CCMH had also previously requested an injunction to prohibit the release of the names. At the June meeting, the Board determined that names of these volunteers were indeed public record. The Board further scheduled a hearing for July on the injunction request regarding the release of the names of the current hospital volunteer van drivers. However, prior to the July 21 meeting, CCMH publicly released the names of all hospital volunteer van drivers. The Board was briefed on the current status of the case and unanimously voted to accept the subsequently amended probable cause report associated with these complaints. As a result, there was no need for the Board to take further action, and the Board unanimously voted to dismiss both complaints and to not hold a further hearing.

New Board Member. The Board also welcomed new member, William Peard of Waukee, Iowa, as a government representative.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for August 18, 2016, in Des Moines.

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